



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Washington, D.C. 20240

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May 12, 2006

Memorandum

To: National Leadership Council

From: /s/ Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection **Cam Sholly**
/s/ Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science **Bert Frost**

Subject: H5N1 Pandemic Influenza Preparation and Response Plan

The National Park Service (NPS) *H5N1 Pandemic Influenza Preparation and Response Plan* has been completed. The plan provides excellent guidance and a framework for regions and parks to use in preparing for and responding to pandemic influenza. Agency preparations are part of the Department of Interior and Federal effort to limit disease, suffering, death, and economic impacts as well as sustain infrastructure should a pandemic occur. It is highly recommended that regions and parks begin preparations immediately to ensure that initial steps, as described in the plan, have been completed for each park. The Washington Office is available and prepared to assist regions and parks in any way necessary.

The plan may be viewed or downloaded from the NPS Avian Influenza website (presented by the NPS Zoonotic and Environmentally Transmitted Disease Steering Committee) at http://www.nps.gov/public_health/zed/ai/ai.htm. Separate plans providing guidance for preparation, communication, and response for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in wildlife, were released April 28, 2006, and are also found at that site.

Questions related to human health and the *H5N1 Pandemic Influenza Preparation and Response Plan* may be directed to Captain David P. Bleicher, Deputy Director for Environmental Health, NPS Office of Public Health, 202-513-7224. For questions related to the HPAI in Wildlife Plans, contact Dr. Margaret Wild, Wildlife Veterinarian, Biological Resources Management Division, 970-225-3593.